## **RESOLUTION NO.**

2	WHEREAS, "Uprooted", a 2018 study of gentrification and displacement in				
3	Austin, authorized by City Council identified homeowners who are most vulnerable				
4	to displacement from rising property taxes as those with the lowest income living in				
5	the most rapidly appreciating neighborhoods; and				
6	WHEREAS, housing displacement has several negative impacts on seniors				
7	including: increased difficulty in obtaining medical care because of transportation				
8	issues, and increased risk of social isolation due to disrupted ties to familiar				
9	neighbors and friends; and				
10	WHEREAS, Economic Opportunity and Affordability was identified as one				
11	of six priority Strategic Outcomes of Austin Strategic Direction 2023, and strategy				
12	#5 specifically addresses displacement: "develop and act on recommendations to				
13	reduce the number of households and businesses displaced from Austin due to				
14	unaffordability";				
15	WHEREAS, volunteerism has also been shown to be an effective strategy in				
16	combating social isolation that is detrimental to healthy outcomes among seniors;				
17	and				
18	WHEREAS, previous efforts, including the Anti-Displacement Task Force				
19	and the Right to Remain report on the Montopolis Neighborhood have indicated a				
20	potential underutilization of remedies available under state law and Council actions				
21	for reducing the property tax burden by homeowners in danger of housing Page 1 of 3				

22 displacement; NOW, THEREFORE,

## **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City Manager is directed to provide recommendations to City Council of the most efficient and effective means of educating Austin residents about existing opportunities for seniors to reduce their property tax burden, including, but not limited to:

- Increasing taxpayer awareness of the opportunities already authorized by law
  for meeting or reducing property tax obligations (e.g. tax deferrals and
  homestead, senior, and disabled persons exemptions)
- Providing information about property tax exemptions and deferrals as part of
  city-sponsored financial literacy programs (e.g. "Families Not Flippers")
- Working with tax appraisal districts to develop metrics for annual reporting
  on the taxpayer utilization rate of available opportunities for seniors to meet
  property tax obligations.
- **36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to provide recommendations to City Council for a senior volunteer program to allow seniors to volunteer as a means of offsetting a portion of their property tax burden. The recommendation should include examples of similar successful programs in other Texas jurisdictions and a proposal for a pilot program. The recommendations should be brought to the Commission on Seniors for comment prior to returning to Council.

## 43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to explore the financial feasibility of increases in future budget years to the senior property tax exemption, and the effect on both affordability for the senior population and future city budgets.

## 47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

48 The City Manager is directed to report back to Council with such 49 recommendations 180 days after Council adopts this resolution.

50

51	ADOPTED:	_, 2019	ATTEST:	
52				Jannette S. Goodall
53				City Clerk
		Pag	e 3 of 3	